



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
February 22, 2005

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**SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

**TWO MEMBERS OF SALEM, NH/LAWRENCE, MA "CRACK" COCAINE RING
SENTENCED ON FEDERAL DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and DEA Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey announced that **Carmen LLAURADOR, aka Carmen Diaz, 46, of Lawrence, MA and Opinio PENA, 45, of Lawrence, MA** were sentenced today on crack cocaine distribution charges.

On November 18, 2004, LLAURADOR entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro to an information charging her with possession with intent to distribute over 50 grams of cocaine base, aka "crack" cocaine. At today's sentencing, Judge Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 100 months imprisonment followed by a 5-year period of supervised release during which LLAURADOR's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On November 23, 2004, PENA entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Steven McAuliffe to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute over 50 grams of cocaine base, aka "crack" cocaine. At today's sentencing, Judge McAuliffe imposed a sentence of 60 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which PENA's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

According to affidavits accompanying federal criminal complaints issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Muirhead during June and July, 2004, LLAURADOR and PENA were part a four-person drug distribution network that sold "crack" cocaine, obtained from a Lawrence, Massachusetts-based source of supply, to an undercover DEA Special Agent during the spring and summer of 2004 in Salem, NH and Methuen, MA. Also facing federal sentences charges arising from the investigation are:

- Ramon SURIEL, 35, of Lawrence, MA; and
- Lizette HERNANDEZ, 36, of Lawrence, MA.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "My Office is committed not only to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire's other larger cities, but also

those importing illegal drugs into New Hampshire over the Massachusetts border. The Southern New Hampshire HIDTA Task Force conducted a thorough and aggressive investigation in this case.”

The conviction resulted from a Southern New Hampshire HIDTA Task Force, located at DEA’s New Hampshire headquarters. The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDEF”).

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